Docket Number: 008312-0284091 Client Reference: T4HW-01S1389-1 ENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re the Application of

MASANORI GUNJI, et al.

Application No.: 09/986,143

Filed: November 7, 2001

Group Art Unit: 2621

Examiner: Gelek W. Topgyal

Confirmation No.: 4645

For: RECORDING/REPRODUCING APPARATUS

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents P. O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.56, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the reference(s) listed on the attached PTO-1449. Unless otherwise indicated herein, one copy of each reference is attached. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the reference(s) be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner return an initialed copy of the enclosed Form PTO-1449 to Applicants with the next Office communication to indicate that the reference(s) has been considered, per MPEP § 609.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months after the U.S. filing date and after the mailing date of a Final Rejection or Notice of Allowance, but before payment of the Issue Fee. Please charge Deposit Account 033975 in the amount of \$180.00 in payment of the fee under 37 CFR 1.17(i)(p). Please credit or debit Deposit Account 033975 as needed to ensure consideration of the disclosed information.

I hereby certify that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 CFR 1.97(e)(1).

The reference(s) was/were cited in a counterpart foreign application. An English language version of the foreign search report is attached for the Examiner's information.

English-language Abstracts of the non-English language references are attached hereto, and are relied upon for a statement of relevance for those references.

Respectfully Submitted,

PILLSBURY WINTHROP SHAW PITTMAN LLP

E. R. Hernandez

Registration Number 47641 Customer Number: 00909

Date: January 18, 2007 Telephone: (703) 770-7900 Facsimile: (703) 770-7901

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not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to Applicant.